

## OPINION 762

## SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF SEVEN SPECIFIC NAMES OF HOLOTHURIOIDEA

**RULING.**—(1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:

- (a) *guamensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria guamensis*;
- (b) *lucifuga* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria lucifuga*;
- (c) *albifasciata* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria albifasciata*;
- (d) *lutea* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria lutea*;
- (e) *pentagona* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria pentagona*;
- (f) *fusca* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Fistularia fusca*;
- (g) *timama* Lesson, 1830, as published in the binomen *Holothuria timama*.

(2) The following specific names, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *guamensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria guamensis* (Name No. 846);
- (b) *lucifuga* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria lucifuga* (Name No. 847);
- (c) *albifasciata* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria albifasciata* (Name No. 848);
- (d) *lutea* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria lutea* (Name No. 849);
- (e) *pentagona* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Holothuria pentagona* (Name No. 850);
- (f) *fusca* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, as published in the binomen *Fistularia fusca* (Name No. 851);
- (g) *timama* Lesson, 1830, as published in the binomen *Holothuria timama* (Name No. 852).

(3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *nobilis* Selenka, 1867, as published in the binomen *Mulleria nobilis* (Name No. 2112);
- (b) *moebii* Ludwig, 1883, as published in the binomen *Holothuria moebii* (Name No. 2113);
- (c) *coluber* Semper, 1868, as published in the binomen *Holothuria coluber* (Name No. 2114);

- (d) *variegatus* Semper, 1868, as published in the binomen *Stichopus variegatus* (Name No. 2115);
- (e) *australis* Ludwig, 1875, as published in the binomen *Colochirus australis* (Name No. 2116);
- (f) *rufescens* Brandt, 1835, as published in the binomen *Polycheira rufescens* (Name No. 2117);
- (g) *aculeata* Semper, 1868, as published in the binomen *Holothuria aculeata* (Name No. 2118);
- (h) *leucospilota* Brandt, 1835, as published in the binomen *Stichopus leucospilota* (Name No. 2119);
- (i) *buccalis* Stimpson, 1856, as published in the binomen *Thyone buccalis* (Name No. 2120).

#### HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1587)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission in April 1963 by Miss Ailsa M. Clark. Miss Clark's application was sent to the printer on 7 May 1963 and was published on 21 October 1963 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **20** : 383-387. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184).

The application was supported by Prof. E. Tortonese and, in part, by Dr. E. Deichmann. Dr. Deichmann objected, however, to the suppression of *Stichopus leucospilota* Brandt and *Thyone buccalis* Stimpson (Nos. 7 & 8 on Miss Clark's list). As a result of this objection Miss Clark wrote "... so as not to prejudice the rejection of numbers 1-6 and 9 (which would upset drastically the accustomed terminology and for which there is a good case), I am prepared to concede that numbers 7 and 8 do not have a good case for retention thanks to certain authors following H. L. Clark's adoption of them."

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 23 August 1965 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (65)25 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **20** : 386-387 as amended in the note accompanying the Voting Paper. In the said note Commissioners were informed of Dr. Deichmann's objection and Miss Clark's reply and the proposals were amended as follows:

"Delete 1(h) and 1(i); 2(h) and 2(i).

For 3(h) substitute: *leucospilota* Brandt, 1835, as published in the binomen *Stichopus leucospilota*.

For 3(i) substitute: *buccalis* Stimpson, 1856, as published in the binomen *Thyone buccalis*."

At the close of the prescribed voting period on 23 November 1965 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-four (24), received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Vokes, Riley, Obruchev, Alvarado, Simpson, Jaczewski, Munroe,

Lemche, do Amaral, Tortonese, Stoll, Uchida, Mayr, Boschma, Forest, Kraus, Binder, Mertens, Ride,\* Evans, Brinck, Bonnet.

Negative votes—one (1): Sabrosky.

Voting Papers not returned—one (1): Hubbs.

The following comments were made by Commissioners in returning their votes:

Mr. C. W. Sabrosky (18.xi.65): "I oppose voting en bloc on lists of names that are mixtures of situations and that appear unequal in justification. In particular, I will not vote to suppress *nomina dubia*, and must vote against the whole list."

Dr. W. D. L. Ride (23.xi.65): "I vote for the proposal to suppress, by means of the plenary powers, the following names:

(1) *Holothuria guamensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833

(3) *H. albifasciata* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833

(4) *H. lutea* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833.

In each case there is instability caused by doubt as to how the name is to be applied, and no type specimens are known to exist. Stability is served better here by suppression than by neotype designation.

"I do not agree to the use of the plenary powers to suppress the following:

(2) *H. lucifuga* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833. This name can be positively identified through its type. It threatens to supplant another name in a taxon which is without stable classificatory boundaries (application p. 384, para. 6) and, moreover, one for which no case has been made for its conservation on the grounds which are set out in the Code for the use of the plenary powers (Arts. 23b(iii) and 79).

(5) *H. pentagona* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833. Again, there is no doubt as to the application of this name. It threatens to replace a name which has an unstable subjective synonymy. In fact, a shift of taxonomic philosophy once more could well require the valid specific name of this taxon to become *doliolum* Pallas, 1766 (as it was until 1942). No adequate case has been made out for conservation of the threatened name *C. australis* Ludwig, 1875. According to the applicant, this name, soon after its description, was placed in synonymy by its describer and left there until 1932. Since 1932 it has been used by three authors.

(6) *Fistularia fusca* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833. This name can be identified without doubt. It threatens to replace a name (*rufescens* Brandt, 1835) for which the applicant makes no case for conservation beyond saying that it has been 'widely used for additional material' by three authors in the taxonomic literature since 1881. The applicant makes no statement covering the invariability of usage of *rufescens* for the taxon which contains *fusca*, nor of stability in its boundaries.

(9) *H. timama* Lesson, 1830. The identity of this name is not in doubt. The applicant asks for the conservation of the threatened name *H. aculeata* Semper, 1868, for which she records seven usages including its original description. No further material has been recorded since its description and it has

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\* An affirmative vote in part only. See note below.

not been used since 1934. On the other hand, *timama*, which we are asked to suppress, has also seven usages (and one more, with doubt, in synonymy). The most recent of these was in 1951 in which it was declared to be the senior synonym of *aculeata*. I would regard the applicant's statement as a clear indication that *aculeata* does not warrant conservation over *timama*."

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official List and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

- aculeata*, *Holothuria*, Semper, 1868, *Reisen im Archipel der Philippinen* 2 : 84-85  
*albifasciata*, *Holothuria*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 132  
*australis*, *Colochirus*, Ludwig, 1875, *Arb. zool.-zoot. Inst. Würzburg* 2(2) : 12-13  
*buccalis*, *Thyone*, Stimpson, 1856, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 1854-1856 : 386  
*coluber*, *Holothuria*, Semper, 1868, *Reisen im Archipel der Philippinen* : 2 : 90  
*fusca*, *Fistularia*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 26  
*guamensis*, *Holothuria*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 137  
*leucospilota*, *Stichopus*, Brandt, 1835, *Prodr. Descr. Anim. Mertens. Orb. Terr. Circumnav. observ.* : 251  
*lucifuga*, *Holothuria*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 134  
*lutea*, *Holothuria*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 140  
*moebii*, *Holothuria*, Ludwig, 1883, *Ber. oberhess. Ges. Nat.-u. Heilk.* : 246  
*nobilis*, *Mulleria*, Selenka, 1867, *Z. wiss. Zool.* 17 : 313  
*pentagona*, *Holothuria*, Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, *Voy. "Astrolabe"*, Zool. 4 : 135  
*rufescens*, *Polycheira*, Brandt, 1835, *Prodr. Descr. Anim. Mertens. Orb. Terr. Circumnav. observ.* : 59  
*timama*, *Holothuria*, Lesson, 1830, *Centurie zoologique, ou choix d'animaux rares, nouveaux ou imparfaitement connus* : 118  
*variegatus*, *Stichopus* Semper, 1868, *Reisen im Archipel de Philippinen* 2 : 73

#### CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (65)26 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 762.

G. OWEN EVANS  
 Secretary

W. E. CHINA  
 Assistant Secretary  
 International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature  
 London  
 20 January 1966